

LIMESTONE COUNTY

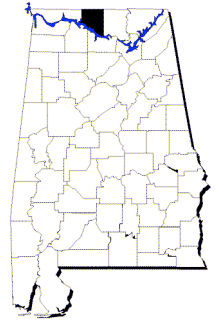
Honorable Jeanne W. Anderson

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Randy Burroughs
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Elizabeth Batts
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Shannon Cameron
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Council Priorities

1. Family Resource Center

Support services should be adequately staffed so that they can address problems and provide solutions for at-risk youth and their families.

2. Increase juvenile detention space

Have no place to put dangerous youth while awaiting court. Revolving door is dangerous to families and community.

3. Increase residential mental health beds

There is never a residential bed available when needed for dangerous mentally ill children.

Issues

Issues are the primary concerns or problems facing children in the county

Early Care Education

Children (0 – 5) are provided opportunities to fully develop emotionally, socially, physically, and cognitively and are ready to succeed.

Lack of daycare for children of students attending community colleges

Action Steps

- 1) Resurrect old day care programs at colleges.
- 2) Incorporate programs into educational curriculum.

Sustain and expand infant and toddler programs

Action Steps

- 1) Continue to provide services for children including training for parents.

Lack of identification of and services for non-working Hispanic women with children 0-5

Action Steps

- 1) Provide a place and program (including transportation) for non-working Hispanic mothers to learn English, receive health information, job-training and parenting skills.

Economic Security

Children grow up in a financially stable home where the child's basic needs can be met.

Duplication of services and lack of announcements by grant recipients

Action Steps

- 1) Pass legislation requiring that any entity applying for grants affecting children must notify the CPC of any county covered by the grant of the application and require that award notification be disseminated to the CPC of any county included in the award.

Lack of availability for job-training, parenting and independent living skills for young indigent parents

Action Steps

- 1) Provide Family Resource Center for classroom site.
- 2) Develop referral system from schools, courts, and DHR.
- 3) Provide a local one-stop shop.

Require planning for adult services for older mentally retarded youth in light of closures of residential facilities so that they are not placed on a "waiting list"

Action Steps

- 1) Fund programs so that mentally retarded adults and their families do not have to wait years on a list to receive services.
- 2) Require an individualized service plan to transition clients to adult services.

Education

Children learn the skills necessary to become productive citizens.

Sustain county school resource officer program and expand program to city schools

Action Steps

- 1) Continue to provide school resource officer services including school safety, truancy prevention, and drug prevention as well as monitoring for juvenile probation officer.

Separate city and county alternative schools, lack of ability to separate age groups and lack of available transportation to alternative schools

Action Steps

- 1) Form a task force to consider feasibility of combining alternative schools.
- 2) Study similar joint programs in other areas.
- 3) Identify useful programs that could be offered through alternative schools - parenting skills, anger management, drug prevention, and independent living skills.

Drop-outs and lack of options for further education and job-training

Action Steps

- 1) Provide an alternative degree program for children, who drop out of school, are failing or who are habitually truant by their sophomore year to include remedial reading and math, independent living skills, vocational training as well as allowing students to work while attending school.

Health

Children's (0 - 19) physical and mental well-being in the county.

Need for immediate mental health treatment and assessment for children

Action Steps

- 1) Find funding to make the juvenile court mental health liaison a full-time position and include conducting anger management classes, parenting skills, and other programs.

- 2) Find funding to make a child psychiatrist always available in emergencies.

Lack of residential mental health beds for children

Action Steps

- 1) Make public aware of inadequacy of residential mental health treatment for treatment for children.
- 2) At federal level, change age of consent for health care to age of majority.

Accessibility to health care insurance for moderate to low income families

Action Steps

- 1) Have a week long campaign focusing on ALL KIDS through schools, hospital, DHR, and courts.

Parent Involvement Skills

Parents and guardians participation and effectiveness in fostering an environment for children to become mature, responsible and independent adults.

Lack of local support services for families rather than sending them to Huntsville or Decatur

Action Steps

- 1) Obtain a building and secure satellite services for drug and alcohol treatment, domestic violence prevention, children's advocacy center, visitation supervision, anger management and other programs.

Continue parenting classes

Action Steps

- 1) Continue parenting classes locally and expand them to include a specific program for children of divorced or separated parents.
- 2) A specific program for children with families with a history of domestic violence.

Lack of respite care for parents of children with special needs

Action Steps

- 1) Continue to develop community and faith-based programs including specialized training for volunteers in order to provide respite services.

Safety

Children live free of abuse, neglect, crime, and drugs.

Lack of detention space for delinquent youth

Action Steps

- 1) Seek funding to build a regional detention center for Limestone and Morgan counties.
- 2) Resubmit legislation for municipalities to share in the cost of detention.

No office staff for Juvenile Probation Office

Action Steps

1) Bring disparities of staff composition among AOC counties to the attention of AOC and local legislative delegation.

Increase in gang-related crime

Action Steps

1) Create a regional task force to develop a database and identify gang recruitment individuals.

Change legal age for operating motorcycles and boats

Action Steps

1) Propose legislation to increase operator's age for motorcycles and boats to at least 16 years of age.

Policy Recommendations

- Increase state funding for children's services and lessen grant competitive process between counties and entities and instead provide unified statewide planning and sustainability for children's services.
- Enact legislation requiring any entity applying for a child-related grant to notify CPC's in counties and cities included in the application and further require notification to CPC's in affected counties upon award.
- Develop a family resource center in Limestone County.
- Increase detention bed space.
- Increase state residential mental health treatment beds for children.
- Keep and expand School Resource Officer program in Limestone County.
- Make Limestone County mental health liaison a full-time position.
- Obtain a reception/office assistant for Limestone County Juvenile Probation Office.